

Hirobo Cup UK

Run by Irvine Ltd, UK Hirobo Importers

Woburn Abbey

July 27 1997

I haven't been to a Hirobo Cup before and wouldn't have gone to this one, but I got coerced into attending just a few days before the event. And it was well worth being there, as the venue and the weather conspired to make it a very enjoyable day. There are three events, Novelty, Scale and FAI (F3C) Aerobatics, of which more later.



The Novelty event, featured on this page, involved flying through a start gate, then 'walking' the helicopter through a short but tortuous maze. A 30 size machine was definitely an advantage here as the wind was quite gusty and the path was not wide (it seemed to me!). I made it through that bit but the next stage, picking up the traditional cone and depositing it in a marked area a few metres away, requires a knack which I clearly don't possess. As soon as I sidled up to the cone the helicopter refused to get closer, losing a lot of time in the process. I got it in the end, but was only halfway through the final stage, knocking down 10 plastic bottles filled with water, when I ran out of time. Didn't I mention you get only 5 minutes to do all this? Of course it's impossible, we all know that, that's why the fastest competitor managed it in about 64 seconds...



Above: Bob Petrie (in one of his rare outings into daylight) had a successful round. Above right: A Shuttle coming out of the maze in one piece. Right: Simon Brown with his Moskito after a clear round. Left: Pete Christy keeps a Shuttle Z specially for occasions such as this.



SCALE



I'm not going to claim to be a scale expert, but this superb Huey UH-1B impressed even me. It obviously made an impression on the judges too, as it won First Prize for Dave Goss.

A quick count of the Results Sheets tells me there were nearly 60 entries, though there were less flyers as several people entered in more than one event. There was also a raffle on the day with over £3000 in prizes, including several Hirobo kits and assorted OS engines. I will say the entry fee seemed high at £10.00, and there was no onsite catering which most meetings appear to have these days. Next year perhaps...



Dave Wilshere's Jet Ranger uses Heim mechanics and a Webra 60. Very pretty in the air...

So many thanks to Irvine Ltd for staging the day; there were no problems with frequency control and the whole day ran very smoothly as far as I was concerned.

Looking forward to next year!



Now I've completely gone to pieces. The top one is a robbe Schluter Hughes 300, the on the left is a Lama, but I know no more.





Another win for Mark Christy



Dave Wilshere's X-Cell was performing well as usual, Dave's one of the three man team that is off to Turkey in a few weeks. Good luck to all!



*Just one of these will set you back about £3000!
Peter and Mark Christy with their two Hirobo Eagle II EX competition machines, both use JR radio and the OS61SX-H WC engine running on 20% Formula Irvine fuel. JR 3000 piezo gyro, 2700 tail rotor servo, and a 4000 on the collective.
Below: Peter calling for Mark during one of the hovering manoeuvres*



F3C occupies a special place in my heart, as I used to compete in F3A (fixed wing aerobatics) some years ago. I always find the precision flying fascinating and (notwithstanding the flames I might get!) consider it a more difficult regime than 3D. Any aerobatic pilot worth his salt has to practice in all types of weather, and ideally should be able to fly any manoeuvre with wind from any quadrant. Hours of practice are the order of the day...

The F3C was run on the day by the AHA (Aerobatic Helicopter Association) and used dedicated frequencies so it could run concurrently with the Novelty event. Flying went on throughout the day, but the sun came around later and caused a few problems as it was up in the top left corner of the 'box', the notional rectangle in which manoeuvres have to be flown.

This year young Mark Christy has been the pilot to beat, I believe he's won every competition this year and only lost one round somewhere along the way. Mark is well supported by his dad Peter, who's also the Team Manager for the World Championships to be held in Turkey in September. About 20 years ago there was a very successful father and son team in F3A, and of course, Curtis Youngblood's father has considerable involvement in Curtis's competition flying. Let's hope for success for the British Team in a few weeks time.

On the subject of the F3C World Championships, we're trying to set up a system where reports and possibly pictures get emailed back to W3MH at regular intervals throughout the competition. We'll keep you posted from the Home Page, start checking in early September.

Hirobo Cup UK Results

FAI Round 1

Mark Christy	243.5	100.00%	1
D. Wilshire	208.5	85.63%	2
Lee Elborn	200.5	82.34%	3
Noel Cross	192	78.85%	4
Mark Tilbury	174.5	71.66%	5
Colin Bliss	152.5	62.63%	6
Steve Bowie	151.5	62.22%	7
Ian Doney	150	61.60%	8
T. Wallinger	136.5	56.06%	9
D. Stretton	133	54.62%	10
M. Leavesley	131.5	54.00%	11
T. Skedge	83.5	34.29%	12

FAI Round 2

M Christy	235.5	100.00%	1
Lee Elborn	221.5	94.06%	2
Noel Cross	199	84.50%	3
D Wishere	175.5	74.52%	4
Colin Bliss	153	64.97%	5
M. Tilbury	152.5	64.76%	6
I. Doney	152	64.54%	7
S. Bowie	132.5	56.26%	8
T. Wallinger	132.5	56.26%	8
D. Stretton	125.5	53.29%	10
M. Leavesley	56	23.78%	11

FAI Round 3

Mark Christy	248	100.00%	1
Lee Elborn	233	93.95%	2
M. Tilbury	212.5	85.69%	3
C. Bliss	207	83.47%	4
D. Wilshere	204.5	82.46%	5
I. Doney	175.5	70.77%	6
T. Wallinger	173	69.76%	7
N. Cross	172.5	69.56%	8
Steve Bowie	153.5	61.90%	9
D. Stretton	145	58.47%	10

Final Result

M.Christy	200	1
L.Elborn	188.01	2
D.Wilshire	168.09	3
N.Cross	163.35	4
M.Tilbury	157.35	5
C.Bliss	148.44	6
I.Doney	135.31	7
T.Wallinger	126.02	8
S.Bowie	124.12	9
D.Stretton	113.09	10
M.Leavesley	77.78	11
T.Skedge	34.29	12

Scale

1	D Goss	113	102	215
2	A Newman (Model 1)	78	87	165
3	M Tilbury	81	68	149
4	D Andrews	59	73	132
5	L Grimsley	60	69	129
6	D Stretton	61	67	128
7	A Newman (Model 2)	54	72	126
8	S Brown	66	59	125
9	D Wilshere	70	52	122
10	R Thornton	55	67	122

Novelty

	Name	Round 1		Round 2		Total	
		Points	Time	Points	Time	Points	Time
1	A Newman	40	1.05	40	1.14	80	2.19
2	D Heath	40	1.04	40	1.20	80	2.24
3	M Leavesley	40	1.14	40	1.17	80	2.31
4	I Dunlop	40	1.14	40	1.20	80	2.34
5	M Tilbury	40	1.28	40	1.07	80	2.35
6	C Jones	40	1.24	40	1.22	80	2.46
7	S Brown	40	1.28	40	1.19	80	2.47
8	L Grimsey	40	1.48	40	1.40	80	3.28
9	M Owen	40	2.19	40	1.24	80	3.43
10	S Bowie	40	1.47	40	2.15	80	4.02
11	A Shaw	40	1.59	40	2.35	80	4.34
12	A Morley	40	2.45	40	1.54	80	4.39
13	R Thornton	40	2.21	40	2.28	80	4.49
14	N Brackley	40	2.20	40	2.40	80	5.00
15	T Skedge	40	3.10	40	2.18	80	5.28
16	J Wesley	40	3.09	40	2.19	80	5.28
17	N Moss	40	3.09	40	2.22	80	5.31
18	B Petrie	40	3.05	40	2.40	80	5.45
19	D Nicklin	40	3.05	40	2.46	80	5.51
20	L Pratt	40	2.51	40	3.16	80	6.07
21	R Shoveller	40	2.43	40	3.28	80	6.11
22	M Heaton	40	2.53	40	3.27	80	6.20
23	D Lawrence	40	3.32	40	2.56	80	6.28
24	R Jones	40	3.01	40	4.55	80	7.56
25	R Morrison	40	4.40	40	4.28	80	9.08
26	T Klokkou	40	4.32	40	5.00	80	9.32
27	H Austin	40	1.54	35	2.09	75	4.03
28	T Johnson	35	5.00	40	4.31	75	9.31
29	P Noble	32	5.00	40	4.40	72	9.40
30	M Smith	25	4.31	40	3.15	65	8.22
31	T Wallinger	40	1.20	-	-	40	1.20
32	P Christy	40	3.53	-	-	40	3.53
33	P Castle	20	5.00	19	5.00	39	10.00
34	T Wright	32	5.00	-	-	32	5.00
35	A Bliss	11	3.37	11	2.43	22	6.20
36	A Galley	15	5.00	-	-	15	5.00